

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No: To Be Assigned  
Applicant: Peter-Michael MERBACH et al.  
Filed: Herewith as national phase of International Application No.  
PCT/DE03/01174, filed April 19, 2003  
TC/A.U.: To Be Assigned  
Examiner: To Be Assigned  
Docket No. 5040.1004

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 23, 2004

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Applicants request that the following Amendments be made in the above-identified matter prior to examination thereof:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 5 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.